

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for creating a business process model, the method comprising the steps of:

1. 5 defining an activity state, the activity state
 corresponding to a human-based or manual step; and
 identifying one or more performers for the activity
 state.

1. 10 2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the
 step of defining reference data, the reference data being
 information that is to be made available to the performers of the
 activity state.

1. 15 3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the reference
 data is made exclusively available to the performers of the
 activity state.

1. 20 4. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the reference
 data is also made available to the performers of a second
 activity state.

1. 25 5. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the
 step of designating the activity state as reassignable to
 indicate that may be moved between performers.

6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the business
 process model is created using extended UML (Universal Modeling
 Language) constructs.

1. 30 7. A method for providing a BPM system, the method
 comprising the steps of:

 receiving an event;
 causing a business process object to transition to an
 activity state corresponding to the event;

identifying one or more performers for the activity state; and
creating a task for each performer.

1. 5 8. A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

 waiting for each task to be completed; and
 causing the business process object to transition from the activity state.

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 9. A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the step of providing each performer with reference data for the activity state.

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 10. A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the reference data is made exclusively available to the performers of the activity state.

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 11. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein the reference data is also made available to the performers of a second activity state.

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 12. A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of retrieving modified reference data from one or more of the performers of the activity state.

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 13. A method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the step of conditionally selecting a transition out of the activity state based on the retrieved modified reference data.

 14. A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

 receiving a second event; and
 applying the second event to the activity state only if the event is targeted to the activity state.

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